

November 6, 2018

Dear Mayor Collins and Commissioners Haladay, O'Loughlin and Noonan,

I am pleased to submit this application to complete Rob Farris-Olsen's term. I have been a full-time resident for 10 years and have been coming here for the last 40 years as my wife is a native of Helena. My interest in local governance goes back almost 60 years, beginning with a summer job in 1959 when I was employed by the City of Manchester NH Planning Department.

The attached resume summarizes my professional and volunteer history. I believe my background and experience would be helpful on issues that the City Commission deals with on a regular basis. My time as a public and non-profit employee, academic, and consultant have all, in some way, involved public policies including plan preparation and adoption, policy formation, implementation through projects and ordinances/resolutions, and ongoing management.

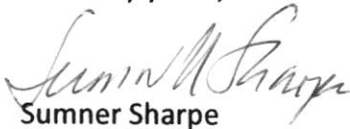
At the same time, I feel that my involvement with a diverse range of topics; forms of local government; city, county and regional jurisdictions; other state capitals; and population sizes of jurisdictions ranging from 2000 to 2 million+ have all been learning experiences. I look forward to bringing those experiences to help address challenges facing Helena and the region such as the future vision of the City resulting from growth through infill development and annexation, replacement and expansion of infrastructure, budget priorities, transportation options, and citizen understanding and involvement.

Having worked with many clients with different goals and interests also prepares me to recognize the importance of listening to all sides of a matter. And in the last ten years of my consulting work, I frequently served as third-party facilitator and developed and managed public engagement/citizen involvement strategies appropriate to each project. In these often contentious projects I worked closely with public agency staff, allowing for civil discussions, and reaching consensus on a recommended "best" solution. I also recognize that there may not be agreement from all parties on every decision, but there should and must be opportunities to be engaged in a meaningful way as part of a decision process.

Members of the community have encouraged me to submit this application. I also have discussed this decision with my wife and with the officers of the Helena Citizens Council and they have encouraged me to proceed with this application. We have been working closely as an HCC Executive Committee and I feel comfortable that there will be continuity if I am selected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Sumner Sharpe

P.S. I would be happy, at your request, to provide names and contact information for personal and professional references, and a more detailed resume.

Resume

Sumner M. Sharpe

621 Holter Street

Helena MT 59601

E-Mail: mtnutmeg@gmail.com

Tel: 406-443-6536(H) 503-803-7676(M)

Experience

- **1977-2011: Private Consultant.** Participated in or managed more than 200 projects for three different firms: Cogan Sharpe Cogan (Partner) – planning, citizen participation and communications; Pacific Rim Resources (Director) - public policy and communications; and Parametrix Inc. (Senior Project Manager) – engineering, environmental and planning services. Topics and roles, in addition to project management, included: land use planning, growth management, development plans, urban renewal/TIF plans and projects, facility planning, parks and recreation, transportation, housing and community development, strategic plans for family/aging/mental health services, public involvement, facilitation and conflict resolution. Clients represented states, regions, counties, cities, private developers, non-profit agencies, public housing, ports, utilities, religious organizations, educational and community-based organizations.
- **1968-2017: Portland State University (Professor, Administrator, Planner in Residence and Adjunct Professor) and Boise State University (Planner in Residence).** Taught or co-taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Housing Policy, Project Management, Criminal Justice Planning, Public Involvement, Community Development, Planning Theory, Planning Administration, Planning Implementation, Growth Management, and Planning Workshops. Community and research activities included Model Cities Plan, formation of the Metropolitan Action Council, internship programs, and advising neighborhood groups/non-profit agencies/practicing professionals. Established the Sharpe-Strachan Endowed Scholarship for Master's Degree students in the School of Urban Studies and Planning
- **1965-1968: Economic Opportunity Committee of Clark County WA (Executive Director).** Established and managed non-profit agency charged with involving and supporting community-based efforts in support of low-income individuals, neighborhoods and communities. Worked with the County, cities, school districts, the public housing agency, and state offices as well as a representative Board of Directors. Established and supported programs including Headstart programs throughout the County, medical and dental services, adult and youth employment assistance and programs, community organizing, and community-based initiatives.
- **1964-1965: Portland area Metropolitan Planning Commission (Senior Planner).** Responsible for researching and writing a regional housing study looking at land needs

and housing projections for different income groups. This report was part of a series of studies in support of a long-range Portland metropolitan area urban growth and forms study and plan, including Clark County in Washington State.

- **1963-64: City of Vancouver WA (Associate Planner).** Assignments included customer service, ordinance administration, parking studies, downtown planning, and rewrite of the city's comprehensive plan.
- **1961-1963: Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand (Group 1).** Assigned to the School of Architecture at Chulalongkorn University, taught planning courses to 4th and 5th year architecture students, worked with faculty to update and revise the Town Planning curriculum, provided field research seminars for planners working for Bangkok and national agencies, assisted with a Ministry of development human resources/educational study, wrote articles/essays for Thai public administration and architecture journals, and reviewed and commented on USOM-led effort to update national planning legislation

Volunteer Activities (Selected)

- Active in both professional and community-based activities including:
 - **Helena area:** District 3 Representative and Chair, Helena Citizens Council; Board member/Education Chair, Last Chance Audubon Society; Board member, Montana Audubon; Member, Lewis and Clark County Open Lands Advisory Committee
 - **Portland Area and Oregon.** Vice-Chair Vancouver WA Planning Commission, Pioneer Courthouse Square Design Advisory Committee and Awards Jury, Citizens Steering Committee Portland Central City Plan, Metro Spectator Facilities Study Committee, Chair Oregon Housing Trust Fund Feasibility Study, Portland Emergency Housing Task Force, Mt Hood Freeway Advisory Committee, Multnomah County Citizen Participation Task Force, Metro Human Relations Task Force on Housing Discrimination against Children in Rental Housing and MHRC Housing Chair, NW District Association advisor on Neighborhood Displacement Study, Board member and Vice-Pres. Oregon Environmental Council, Intro to Planning for Citizens for the Center for Urban Education of the Council of Churches, 1000 Friends of Oregon Public Facility Financing Study

- **Professional:** Fellow, American Institute of Certified Planners; Board member, American Planning Association; Commissioner and President, American Institute of Certified Planners; Oregon Chapter President, American Planning Association; Planning Accreditation Board site visitor to six universities; Advisory board member, American City Quality Foundation; moderator or participant at planning and housing agency conferences and seminars; and Peer Review panel, City of Cincinnati Department of Planning

Publication Topics (Selected)

- Land use planning, smart development, citizen participation, homelessness, community effects of rental unit conversions, neighborhood participation in public housing development, state policy and local growth management, perspectives on conflict, theory of planning practice, resources for citizen planners

Education

- A.B., Dartmouth College, Geography major (Honors) , minors in Sociology and Economics
- MCRP, Cornell University, City and Regional Planning
- London School of Economics, post-graduate study in Public Administration and Geography
- PhD, University of Washington, Urban Planning (Dissertation: Community Perspective on Planning and Conflict)